

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A gas-tight housing comprising a tubular housing and an end flange that are dimensioned and assembled to provide an interference fit therebetween after assembly via a heat-shrink assembly process, said housing comprising joint-forming means for providing a gas-tight joint, said joint-forming means comprising a plurality of grooves formed in said tubular housing and adhesive being applied in said grooves with said plurality of grooves being dimensioned such that sufficient adhesive is retained in said grooves during and after assembly to ensure a gas-tight joint.~~The housing of claim 6 wherein the depth of the plurality of grooves being is less than the amount of the interference fit between the tubular housing and the end flange.~~

3. (Currently amended) A gas-tight housing comprising a tubular housing and an end flange that are dimensioned and assembled to provide an interference fit therebetween after assembly via a heat-shrink assembly process, said housing comprising joint-forming means for providing a gas-tight joint, said joint-forming means comprising a plurality of grooves formed in said tubular housing and adhesive being applied in said grooves with said plurality of grooves being dimensioned such that sufficient adhesive is retained in said grooves during and after assembly to ensure a gas-tight joint.~~The housing of claim 6 wherein the plurality of grooves are each being approximately .250 inch wide.~~

4. (Previously presented) The housing of claim 3 wherein the amount of interference fit is approximately .010 inch and the depth of the plurality of grooves is approximately .005 inch.

5-6 (Canceled)